DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 154 564 EC 110 267

AUTHOR Seymour, Vickie Lynn
TITLE Teenage Prostitution as a Product of Child Abuse.
PUB DATE [77]
NOTE 12p.; Print is marginal and may not reproduce well in hard copy

EDRS PRICE MF-$0.83 HC-$1.67 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS Adolescents; *Child Abuse; *Delinquency; Emotionally Disturbed; *Individual Characteristics; Intervention; Research Reviews (Publications); *Sexuality; *Socially Deviant Behavior
IDENTIFIERS *Prostitution

ABSTRACT

Teenage runaways and prostitution have become a rising problem in the major cities of the United States. Research into the backgrounds of youngsters selling sexual favors has shown many similarities in children's family background, particularly homes with abusing parents. The handling or lack of handling, up to this point, has not proved successful in returning these children to a middle class society. New methods of intervention must be designed that incorporate recent research methods. (Author/SBH)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

ED154564

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN REPRODUCED EXACTLY AS RECEIVED FROM THE PERSON OR ORGANIZATION ORIGINATING IT. POINTS OF VIEW OR OPINIONS STATED DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT OFFICIAL NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION POSITION OR POLICY

Teenage Prostitution as a Product of Child Abuse

Vickie Lynn Seymour

Indiana University

Running Head: Teenage Prostitution

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY

Vicki Seymour

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC) AND USERS OF THE ERIC SYSTEM."

EC 110 267

Teenage Prostitution as a Product of Child Abuse

Child abuse in the United States has reached epidemic proportions. In the year 1975, an estimated one million children were abused and neglected, two thousand children died (National Committee for Prevention of Child Abuse, 1976). According to Walters (1975) a child under the age of one year has the greatest potential of dying from abuse inflicted by a natural parent, howeve once the child reaches one year of age the chances of suffering an abusive death rise with the entrance of a caretaker other than the natural parent.

Children that are abused carry many types of physical trademarks; brain damage, a limp, defective hearing and or eyesight, there are also emotional scars. Studies indicated that "80% of the felons in jail were abused or neglected as children"(National Committee for Prevention of Child Abuse, 1976, p.4). Research has verified the many physical and emotional problems that abused children endure, it has also clarified that abused children become abusive adults (Walters., 1975), but what of the teenager? What happens when the victim of abuse is old enough to walk or run away from the abuser?

The National Committee for Prevention of Child Abuse (1976) estimates that more than a million children run away from their homes because of intolerable living conditions. "The studies of Dr. Rocco D'Angelo, of Ohio State University's School of Social Work, found that runaway children are physically punished two-and-a-half times more frequently than nonrunaway children" (National Committee for Prevention of Child Abuse. 1976 p.5). This however, is not to say that all runaways are from abusive homes. Lieut. Neil J. D'Avino of the New York Police department's Youth Division lists four types of runaways. In his unpublished master's thesis he described the "splitter", "floaters", "hard-road freak" and the "lonely-schizoid". The "splitter" runs as the result of a specific conflict, anything from a beating to a major conflict. The "floaters" are the ones who flirt with running and usually return home within 48 hours. These individuals associate running away with status and when bored will run again. The "hard-road freak" is a teenager with a record of truancy and one who moves around alot. This individual is leaning toward criminal behavior. The

last type "lonely schizoid", is a hard to reach loner. This child desires to be on his own and carries out this wish (Morgan, 1975). (The word child and teenager are used interchangably here)

The United States government has spent ten million dollars in each of the years 1975, 1976, and 1977 for shelters and counseling services to be established to aid runaways. "A national toll-free runaway switchboard was set up in Chicago: it handles about 1,000 calls a month" (Morgan, 1975. p.39). The common denominator found in the majority of runaways---a broken or unstable home (Morgon 1975).The average age of the runaway is sixteen with 36% being male and 64% female. Morgan believes many boys aren't reported, thus the higher rate of female runaways (1975).

Are the children's problems solved once they've run away? Unfortunately not. Prostitution by teenagers and younger children is becoming a problem in many of the cities across the United States (Morgan, 1975, Lindsay, 1970). Police in New York City estimate that 20,000 runaways "under the age of sixteen are on the city's streets and many are available for commercial sex" (Time, 1977 p.23). In New York, "the police have

files and photographs of more than 100 midtown pimps who pay tinder's fees to scouts" (Morgan, 1975 p.40).

The way for the pimp is paved with ease he glides right in. The majority of pimps are black, the girls are white. The girls are taught to have no racial prujudice, so they end up bending over backwards to be nice to the black man that they meet on the street. He offers food shelter, gifts, and then puts them to work (Morgan, 1975).

The young male does not escape the sex business. On July 23 1975 a man by the name of Gerald S. Richards was arrested and he plead guilty. He willingly produced documentation of using young boys for sexual sale and pornographic business ventures (Sneed, 1977). He stated that recruiting kids was easy. He looked for children with no father or one that didn't care. His business had contacts all over the United States, and this man was working out of Michigan, not New York or California (Sneed, 1977).

It appears that the runaways run into as much danger and abuse as they run from. The cycle just continues. Cultures continue to breed cultures, and abusive children are from an abusive culture.

Dr. Prescott has studies 49 societies, and in doing

so he has made some very interesting discoveries concerning child-rearing practices (Prescott, 1978). After he examined the societies, he compared "their behaviors in three areas: physical affection given to infants, adult physical violence (specifically the extent to which they engage in torturing, mutilation and killing their enemies), and repression of premarital and extramarital sexuality" (Prescott, 1978 p. 5). Cultures very high in giving infants physical affection were low in adult physical violence, cultures rated low on expression of physical affection towards infants were high on adult physical violence (Prescott 1978). When Dr. Prescott examined the cultures that had "low infant physical affection and also low adult physical violence", he found "that every one of these cultures had permissive attitudes toward premarital sex", and he interpreted this to mean "the deprivation of infant physical affection can be compensated for later in life through expressive sexuality" (1978, p.6).

Is this what the runaway child and teenager is attempting to do? The prostitute seeks many sexual relationships, for financial gain. However, the teenage prostitute almost always is working for someone. They

seek lots of relationships, but only to please their pimp. The pimp acts as sort of an adoptive parent. He will take the child in only to once more victimize them. The must constantly work for their "love".

Harold Greenwald is a court psychologist that specializes in prostitute behavior he states that "he has not been able to recruit even one prostitute for voluntary treatment, although it is free and readily available" (Lindsay, 1970, p.153). The reasons;

> 1) fear of the pimp; 2) fear of riducule by one's companions and sister prostitute; 3) a lifetime of failure and disappointment resulting in an inability to identify with the square world; 4) the frequent complication of drug addiction; 5) remnants of pride which will not admit to emotional bankruptcy or inability to control one's own life; 6) unavailability or inadequacy of substitute satisfactions (Lindsay, 1970 p.153).

The teen prostitute is incapable of looking to a different future (Lindsay, 1970). This is the point where assistance, not incarceration is needed. The teenagers need help with realistic plans for the future, along with alternate plans available for attaining these goals. Agencies specializing in supportive

therapy techniques should work with the runaways. Branches of the law enforcement agencies should also become involved. Stricter laws need to be enacted, and enforced. Interstate transportation of children for sexual exploitation should be eliminated. It's a well known fact that the Mafia is now back into prostitution, back after abandoning it in the 1930's for more profitable business Ventures such as drug importation and sales (Time,1977).

The business is booming because of runaways; children are running because of unhappy homes. When these children grow up, if these children grow up, will they raise their children differently? There's a probability of .87 that they will <u>not</u> (Walters, 1975).

References

Bell, Lester 1977. Congress Urged to Halt Child Porno. Joliet Herald News. March 24, 1977.

Bryan, Hames H. 1966. Occupational Ideologies of Call Girls. Social Problems. 13(4): 441-450, Spring.

Gibbons, T.C.N. 1956. Juvenile Prostitution. Juvenile Deliquency.

Hinojosa, Viqueira 1965. Cases of International Prox-enetism in Spain. International Criminal Police Review. June-July 1965 p.175-178.

Hoover, John Edgar 1933. White Slave Traffic. Journal of Criminal Law and Crininology. 24(2): 475-482 July-August 1933.

Larsen, Jan 1978. Social Worker Shot Abusive Father. Herald-News, Joliet, Illinois. January 15, 1978.

Larsen, Jan 1978. It Happens in 'Best' of Families. Joliet-Herald-News. January 15, 1978.

Larsen, Jan 1978. University Professor Once a Battered Child. Joliet Herald-News. January 15, 1978.

Meikamp, Kathie D. 1977. Midwest Parent-Child Re-view. Volume III, Number 1 Fall 1977.

Lindsay, Mary K. 1970. Prostitution--Deliquency's Time Bonb. Crime and Deliquency 16(2): 151-157 April 1970.

Morgan, Ted 1975. Little Ladies of the Night. ii N.Y. Times May p. 34-8+ N 16'75.

National Committee for Prevention of Child Abuse 1976. Prevent Child Abuse. Chicago, Ill.

Prescott, James W. Child Abuse in America: Slaughter of the Innocents. A Special Repring from Hustler magazine.

Rosenblum, Karen E. 1975. Female Deviance and the Female Sex Role: A Preliminary Investigation. Brittish Journal of Sociology. 26(2) 169-185 June 1975.

Sneed, Michael 1977. Father, teacher: Tangled Life of Child Pornographer. Chicago Tribune. 130(135): 20, May 15, 1977.

Socarides, Charles W. 1959. Meaning and Content of a Pedophidlac Peversion. Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association. Volume VII, Number 1 January, 1959.

Sterns, A. Warren 1948. The Life and Crimes of Jesse Harding Pomeroy. The Journal of the Maine Medical Association. Volume XXXIX, Number 4 April 1948 p.79.

Swanson, David W. 1968. Adult Sexual Abuse of Children: The Man and Circumstances. Disease of the Nervous System. 29(10): 677-683 1968.

Time 1977. Youth for Sale on the Streets. The Nation. Time 110-23 N 28'77.

Tuteur, Werner 1963. Child Molestors and Men Who Expose Themselves--An Anthropological Approach. Journal of Forencis Sciences, 8(4): 515-525, October 1963.

Virkkunen, Matti 1975. Victim-Precipitated Pedophillia Offences. Brittish Journal of Criminology. 15(2): 175-180 April 1975.

Walters, D. 1975. The Physical and Sexual Abuse of Children: Causes and Treatment. Indiana University Press, Bloomington.

Walters, David R., Streib, Victor 1976. Emerging Human and Legal Rights of Children. Journal of Behavior Disorders of Children. Volume 2#1 August 1976.

Weiss, Joseph; Rogers, Estelle; Darwin, Miriam; Dutton, Charles E. 1955. A Study of Girl Sex Victims. Psychiatric Quarterly, Volume 29, January 1955.